Primary Marketing Co-operative Societies

1014. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) the number of primary marketing co-operative societies in the country, State-wise;

(b) whethe. any effort is being made at the Central level for strengthening and effective functioning of these societies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) As on 31.3.95 there are 8,805 Primary Marketing Co-operative Societies in the Country. The State-wise break up is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Government is providing financial assistance through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to State Government for strengthening of share capital base of the Primary Cooperative Marketing Societies.

Statement

S. No.	State/U.Ts.	No. of Societies
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100
2.	Assam	57
3.	Bihar	475
4.	Goa	8
5.	Gujarat	2,325
6.	Haryana	78
7.	Himachal Pradesh	78
8.	Karnataka	644
9.	Kerala	619
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2,159
11.	Maharashtra	1,035
12.	Manipur	19
13.	Meghalaya	26
14.	Nagaland	19
15.	Orissa	2
16.	Punjab	98
17.	Rajasthan	181
18.	Sikkim	3
19.	Tamil Nadu	221
20.	Tripura	14
21.	Uttar Pradesh	320
22	West Bengal	280
23.	A & N Island	32
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
25.	Delhi	6
26.	Mizoram	3
	Total	8,805

Source: NABARD.

Criteria for Setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendra

1015. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which the location for establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendras has been selected;

(b) whether the opinion of local Members of Parliament has not been taken into consideration while selecting the location; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The norms fixed by the Govt. for deciding the location of

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) includes availability of 50 acres of representatives cultivable land in one stretch located as far as possible in central part of the districts, availability of basic civic facilities, adequate technical backstopping from the host institution and acceptance of funding pattern.

(b) and (c) For selecting the location of a KVK based on the proposals received from various organisations including those recommended by Hon'ble Member(s) of Parliament, I.C.A.R constitutes an Expert Team consisting of an eminent scientist as the Chairman and concerned Director of Extension Education of State Agriculture University, a Representative of State Department of Agriculture and Zonal Coordinator of the Zone as Members. A senior officer from the Council's Head Quarters serves as Member-Secretary of the Team. Based on the recommendations made by the Team, the Council takes a final view on the suitability of site for location of a KVK.

Import Policy of Rifampicin

1016. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the meeting by his Secretary to decide the import policy of Rifampicin/Rifa-S converters voiced their concern for high prices charged by the basic producers with the support of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of the points raised in converters at the said meeting;

(c) if so, the steps taken to investigate the matter and fix the responsibility in this regard;

(d) whether in this process crores of rupees have been overcharged from the poor T.B. patients; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The point raised by the converters in the meeting was that if they purchase domestically produced Rifa-S, an intermediate, for conversion into Rifampicin, they would not be able to compete with the indigenous manufacturers. Concern about overcharging was not voiced in the meeting.

(d) No complaint of overcharging from T.B. patients in respect of Rifampicin has been received so far.

(e) Does not arise.

Strengthening of Terrorism Act

1017. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a law to deal with the problem of terrorism to fill the vacuum created by the lapse of the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to deal with the problem of terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The erstwhile Terrorists and Disruptive Activities Act, 1987 whose constitutionality was upheld by the hon'ble Supreme Court was allowed to lapse in May, 1995 because of the criticism that some of its provisions were allegedly misused. After detailed discussions with various State Governments and leaders of Political parties, Criminal Law Amendment Bill which sought to fill in the vacuum created by TADA was introduced in Rajya Sabha in May '95 and the same is pending in the House. The Bill broadly seeks to strike a balance between Human Right concerns and the requirement to combat terrorism. Government would like to hold wider consultations on the various provisions of the above bill before moving for its consideration by the Parliament. In absence of a specific legislation dealing with terrorist offences, relevant provisions of Indian Penal code are being used.

[Translation]

Cultivation of Sun Flower in Bihar

1018. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for the cultivation of Sun flower in Hajaribagh, Palamau and Chatra districts of South Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other agricultural products proposed to be encouraged by the Government for the development of agriculture in these areas;

(d) the amount spent on the development of agriculture in these areas during each of the last three years, till-date;